

GULF DEFENDER



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Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

Feb. 11, 2005

In brief

Annual Awards Banquet

The 325th Fighter Wing Annual Awards Banquet will start at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Pelican Reef Enlisted Club. Dress is mess dress/semi-formal for military. Choice of meal is London broil or stuffed chicken breast. Contact your unit first sergeant for tickets.



What's inside



B-Course student shares training insight
... **PAGE 9**



Mardi Gras party a big success
... **PAGE 10 - 11**



Tyndall OSC sponsors art auction tonight
... **PAGE 13**

The ORI is coming ...



... **128 days and counting**

Gridiron greats, AF's finest tee off

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Two Tyndall Airmen shared a tee time with their childhood idols Saturday when they joined National Football League Hall of Fame members in their annual golf tournament in Jacksonville, Fla.

Lt. Col. Craig Hall, 325th Maintenance Group deputy commander, and Staff Sgt. Ralph Moseley, 325th Maintenance Operations Squadron weapons standardization crew chief, took to the greens with eight other servicemen and more than 26 NFL Hall of Fame members, including Ed "Too Tall" Jones, Lynn Swann, Bobby Mitchell and Charley Taylor.

According to Nick Nicolosi, tournament supervisor, servicemen are often invited to participate in hall of fame contests to show the NFL's appreciation for the hard work and sacrifices the men and women of the military make while serving their country.

"Wherever the (football) tournaments go, we try to involve those in uniform if there are military bases nearby," said Mr. Nicolosi. "We began this tradition during Operation Desert Storm, and I think this was the best one yet because we had more football celebrities and military participants than in previous years. The players really enjoyed interacting with all the servicemembers, and it's the least we could do to say thank you."

But for Colonel Hall and Sergeant Moseley, it was the chance of a lifetime to play with some of the heroes of their childhood, the men who made the NFL what it is today.

"I have played golf with and briefed four-star generals and I am in awe of them, but this was different," said Colonel Hall, who played with Charley Taylor, the legendary Washington Redskins wide receiver.

"I was overwhelmed with excitement before the day even began. I really wanted to see Kellen Winslow, the San Diego Chargers tight end from 1980s, and Hank Bauer, a Chargers running back from the same era, and I got to meet both before we teed off Saturday morning," he said.



2nd Lt. William Powell

Staff Sgt. Ralph Moseley, 325th Maintenance Operations Squadron weapons standardization crew chief, waits with anticipation for his golf ball to fall in the cup after a 10-foot putt during the National Football League Hall of Fame golf tournament Saturday.

Colonel Hall, a California native and state golf champion at the age of 18, received the invitation to attend the tournament from Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander. The general was asked by the tournament coordinators to select two individu-

als to represent the Air Force.

"I was thrilled to hear that General Egginton and Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th FW vice commander, thought of me when they received

● **SEE GOLF PAGE 15**

Force development: Changing the education mindset

GEN. JOHN JUMPER
Air Force Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON — Over the past few years, we have initiated a number of educational initiatives for force development, focusing on changing the way we develop and train our people to meet the challenges of the expeditionary Air Force.

Force development takes a deliberate approach to providing Airmen the training and experience they need to succeed in delivering air and space power now and in the future.

We must make sure Airmen get the training and education required for their specialty or area of expertise. If you need additional education or training — you will get it.

This mindset is a significant change, especially for officers. For years, master’s degrees had a significant impact on promotion potential. This must change — our focus should be on deliberate development and not “square filling.” Education must be tailored to benefit Airmen in doing their jobs.

“Beginning in January, we will remove all academic education information, including bachelor’s degrees, from all Line of the Air Force and Judge Advocate General promotion boards through the rank of colonel.”

GEN. JOHN JUMPER
Air Force Chief of Staff



Promotion is, and will continue to be, determined by your performance and demonstrated leadership potential to serve in the next higher grade.

Beginning in January, we will remove all academic education information, including bachelor’s degrees, from all Line of the Air Force and Judge Advocate General promotion boards through the rank of colonel. The Guard and Reserve components will

implement the same procedures beginning with boards convening after Jan. 1, 2006.

All Airmen should receive some form of development to assist them in their duties in higher grades and levels of responsibility. We will provide the right development venues to meet both Airmen and Air Force needs. At the same time, I’m not discouraging you from pursuing an ad-

vanced academic degree on your own. We will continue to offer tuition assistance and operate educational support offices at each base. Advanced academic degrees will no longer be a factor in the promotion process — at any level of the process: rater, senior rater, management-level or the promotion board. The Air Force’s emphasis is on job performance and for providing Airmen the right opportunities for advanced education when it is required.

This new policy will not affect chaplain and health profession officers. Due to certification requirements, we need to continue showing academic information for these officers.

The goal is clear — develop professional Airmen who will collectively leverage their respective strengths to accomplish the Air Force mission. You make our Air Force the best in the world. We owe it to you to provide the skills and education you need to continue to excel!

Master sergeant shares impression of good leadership

MASTER SGT. DARRYL RINK
386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — Throughout my career, I’ve seen leaders of all ranks come and go. But when I look back, there seems to be a connection between the assignments I enjoyed and those with leaders who were involved.

General Dwight Eisenhower once said, “Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.” The general could not have been more correct. Waking up each morning and putting on my uniform is easy when I know that at the end of the day I will go home with a feeling of pride and accomplishment.

Unfortunately, the ability to lead people into an atmosphere where there is a sense of “want to” isn’t handed out with new bars or stripes. Sometimes, along the way, mistakes are made and lessons learned. This was the case not too long ago when I was part of a small unit.

We had great potential, but each day our leader remained distant and uninterested in the internal dynamics of the organization. Our success was always measured by the end result, and in most cases it was “mission accomplished.” Although we produced good ratings for the status board, almost everyone came to work with a look of disinterest on their faces.

As with all Air Force work cen-

ters, eventually someone will leave, and leaders are no exception. Our leader did move on and a new boss was on the way. We all waited with a lot of anticipation. We had no idea of what to expect, but WOW, what a shock! I can only compare it to watching a medical show, and hearing a doctor say, “CLEAR.”

She took charge of our organization. I don’t remember her exact words, but she wasted no time telling us that things were broken and we were going to have put in some long hours to fix them.

Our new leader possessed characteristics that I had read about many times before, but I had never seen so many of them in one person. First of all, she was the most

decisive person I had ever met. Her decisions were usually unpopular, but she would not waiver. She also displayed a high level of competency. She knew the business, and that was painfully obvious to all of us.

But if there was one thing that really put her over the top, it was her energy. It was impossible to be anywhere near her and not be drawn into her singing and warrior calls.

Each morning, roll call was an adventure. We sang, cheered and laughed despite the long hours that were ahead of us.

Here was a leader who was near the end of a long career, but the energy she possessed would lead you to believe that she was a

first term Airman. Adjusting to this new leader was no walk through the park - she was tough. But, she had a short-term vision for the people, and she got us there efficiently and effectively.

Prior to her arrival, we were led to believe that we were mission ready, but she knew that we were capable of being more than ready. She led us straight to the top and we enjoyed being there.

For the first time in a long time, work was a place we wanted to be. I wouldn’t dare say that a good leader needs to sing and cheer at the beginning of each day, but a little decisiveness, competence and energy can definitely be a good starting point for anyone who wants to be successful.

Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton	325th FW commander
Capt. Susan A. Romano	chief, 325th FW public affairs
1st Lt. Albert Bosco	chief, internal information
2nd Lt. William Powell	deputy chief, internal information
Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell	editor
Senior Airman Benjamin Rojek	staff writer

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The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

Commander addresses FamCamp concern

(Editor's note: The following question came from a concerned Tyndall member, who called the Action Line.)

My wife and I are currently staying in the FamCamp, and there are families who have been here more than a year. I am concerned because it appears the facility is slowly turning into a mobile home park.

There are special circumstances we consider on a case-by-case basis. Our written policies include special consideration for active duty and reservists who are in permanent change of station or temporary duty status. Active duty personnel assigned to Tyndall may stay at the FamCamp while they are waiting for base housing. TDY travelers are also authorized guests. We also have one contractor, retired military, who is in the FamCamp for more than 90 days. This individual is there on a valid extension.

We currently have a unique situation with some National Guardsmen, who were called to active duty as part of the Global War on Terrorism. These servicemembers are under a "Continuation of Service Tour" for a length of 180 days to 18 months. Due to their unique situation, they've been authorized to remain with us for an extended period.

We allow waivers for campers who require extensive medical treatment. They are required to provide a medical letter from their doctor explaining their circumstances and why they are not capable of moving. Once their situation improves they must abide by the same length-of-stay guidance as other guests.

We looked into your concern about the policy allowing campers to stay in the FamCamp up to 90 days. Ninety days is the Air Force standard for FamCamp operations. We called 10 Air Force Base FamCamps concerning their length of stay policy and discovered that six bases had no maximum stay limit but reviewed occupancy periodically

(ranged from every seven to every 90 days) to determine if guests would need to vacate their campsite and get on a waiting list; two bases had no maximum stay limit and did not require occupancy review; one base had a 180 day maximum stay; and one base had a 120 day maximum stay.

Thank you for providing feedback on our FamCamp program, where the mission is and has always been, on the recreational traveler.

We appreciate your call.



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell
Joe Morris, Air Force retiree, enjoys his leisure time playing "washers," a game similar to "horseshoes," with other retirees at FamCamp here.

Action Line

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

Action Line calls are recorded and staffed through the proper agency.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you're not satisfied with the response or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General's Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander



ON THE STREET

What are you planning to do for your valentine?



"I am getting her roses and a teddy bear."

CARL CAMP
Air Force retiree



"My wife and I have a \$10 budget, and I am determined to make it work."

2ND LT. LOUIS GRIFFITH
325th Air Control Squadron



"I am going to get him some flowers, balloons, cologne and a gift bag with chocolates."

MASTER SGT. TANYA HART
Det. 1, 325th Fighter Wing, NAS Pensacola



"I am taking her to her hometown in Lancaster, S.C."

MASTER SGT. MIKE VENTURA
Det. 1, 823 RED HORSE Squadron

Tyndall Airmen gear up for AFAP kickoff Tuesday



Lisa Norman

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander, signs the first check to the Air Force Assistance Fund, while Master Sgt. Rhonda Martin, Airman Leadership School superintendent and Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Pieknik, 325th Operation Support Squadron Command Post superintendent, look on.

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SARAH McDOWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

After seeing what donations can do for the thousands of victims of the tsunami that ripped through Southeast Asia, imagine what they can do for Airmen.

The Air Force Assistance Fund kicks off Tuesday at Tyndall and will run through March 29. The fund gives people the opportunity to anonymously help Airmen who may be less fortunate or find themselves in emergencies they are unable to fund.

“The AFAP provides invaluable support to active duty, retirees, reservists, guardsmen and their dependents, including surviving spouses. It is designed to help those who have an emergency, educational needs, or need a secure retirement home for widows or widowers of AF members who need financial assistance,” said Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Pieknik, 325th Fighter Wing Com-

mand Post superintendent. “The campaign is about Airmen helping other Air Force people directly.”

In past years, the AFAP has provided such assistance as help for Airmen who need funds for car repairs, providing airline tickets for emergency flights home or providing homes for widows.

When Airmen donate to the AFAP they ensure the Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widows’ Fund and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation will have the funds in the event of a personal or global catastrophe.

“Our support of the AFAP charities is an investment in our future fitness to assist the world community when and where we are called,” said Sergeant Pieknik.

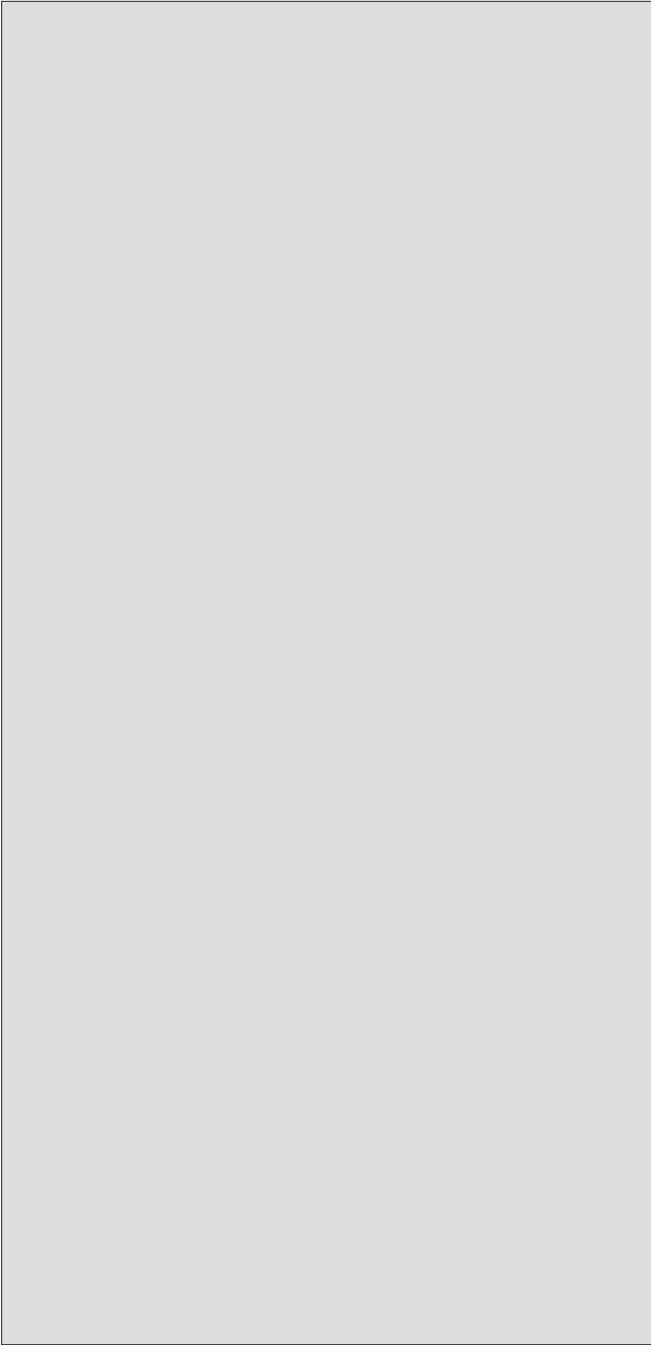
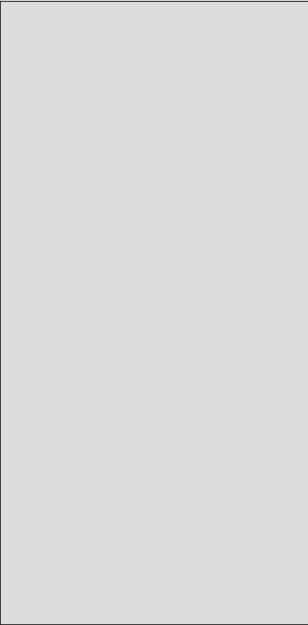
For more information on how to donate, call Sergeant Pieknik at 283-8534, or Master Sgt. Rhonda Martin at 283-2283.

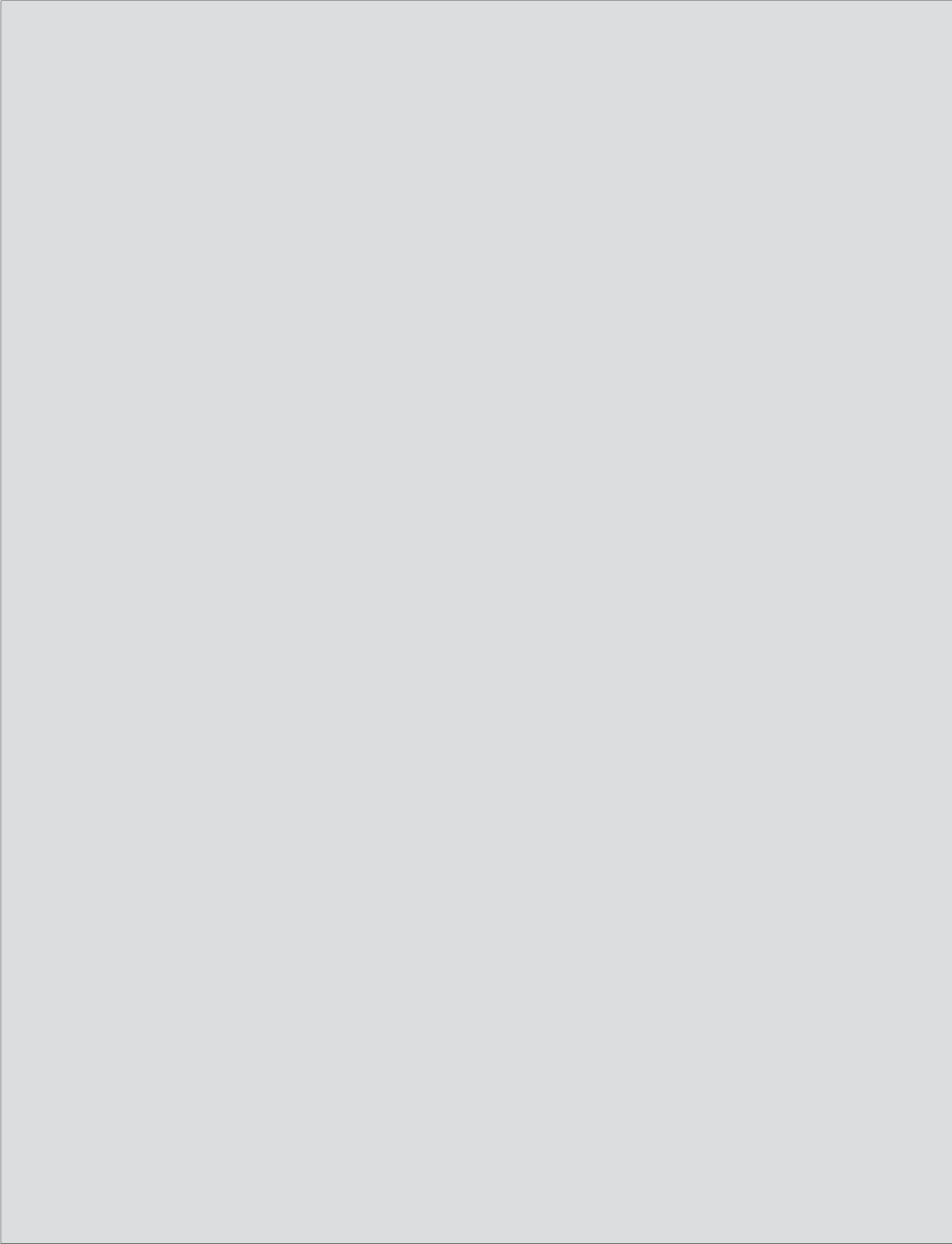
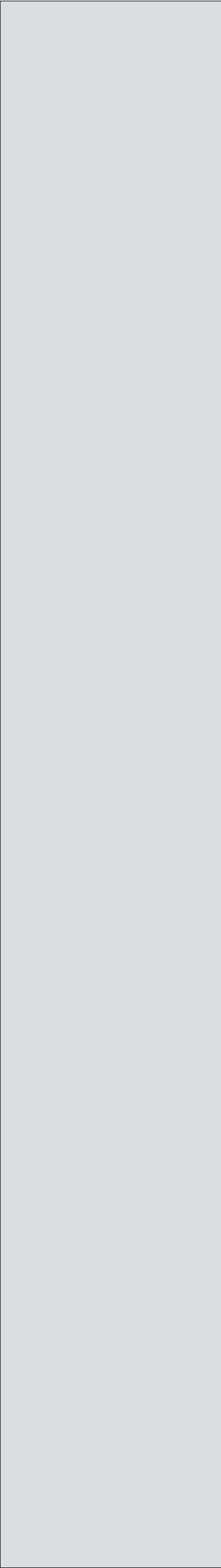
For more information on how to donate, call Sergeant Pieknik at 283-8534, or Master Sgt. Rhonda Martin at 283-2283.

Don't risk it!



For a safe, free ride home, call Airmen Against Drunk Driving. The phone number is temporarily changed to 381-0008.





Air Force chaplain explains suicide prevention efforts

2ND LT. JON QUINLAN
314th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force’s top chaplain recently explained what the Air Force Chaplain Service is doing to help prevent suicides.

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Charles Baldwin, Air Force Chaplain Service chief, advises the Air Force chief of staff on all matters pertaining to the religious and moral welfare of Airmen.

“What our Airmen do is important and we must honor them by acknowledging and affirming that they are making a difference in the world,” Chaplain Baldwin said in an interview Jan. 28 following the installation’s National Prayer Breakfast. “There is no job that is insignificant.”

The chaplain service is made up of faith-based counselors that listen, help and refer Airmen to other

organizations if necessary, he said.

“We just want people to know that we care about them and we want to listen no matter what your faith, or if you have no faith background,” Chaplain Baldwin said.

To ensure Airmen are getting that message, the chaplain service launched a Campaign of Hope in January. One campaign initiative has chaplains visiting Airmen wherever they may be.

“We have asked our chaplains to be present on the flightline (and) in the maintenance hangar, and go where the Airmen are and work,” Chaplain Baldwin said. “We call it honoring Airmen.”

Tyndall’s chaplains use the ongoing Religious Support Team Program to meet the Campaign of Hope initiative. In this program, Tyndall chaplains and their

assistants visit their assigned units once a week to meet the troops face to face. They also attend base programs and events to make sure people know who they are.

“Team Tyndall prides itself in taking care of their own,” said Master Sgt. Susie Arce, 325th Fighter Wing chaplain assistant NCO in charge. “No matter what the situation is, if the chapel can’t help you we will find someone who can.”

The chapel is teamed up with other centers, such as the family support center, life skills and family advocacy to provide readiness information and several types of counseling to meet Airmen’s needs.

Airmen can talk to Tyndall chaplains about anything with 100 percent confidentiality.

“You can talk to chaplains about any issue: mari-



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

The Integrated Delivery System conducts a meeting about suicide prevention. It is a combination of agencies, such as the family support center, life skills, family advocacy and the chapel. They come together to improve upon existing policies and programs as well as introduce new programs to meet community needs.

tal, financial, relationship, hardship, or whatever else you would like to talk about,” Sergeant Arce said.

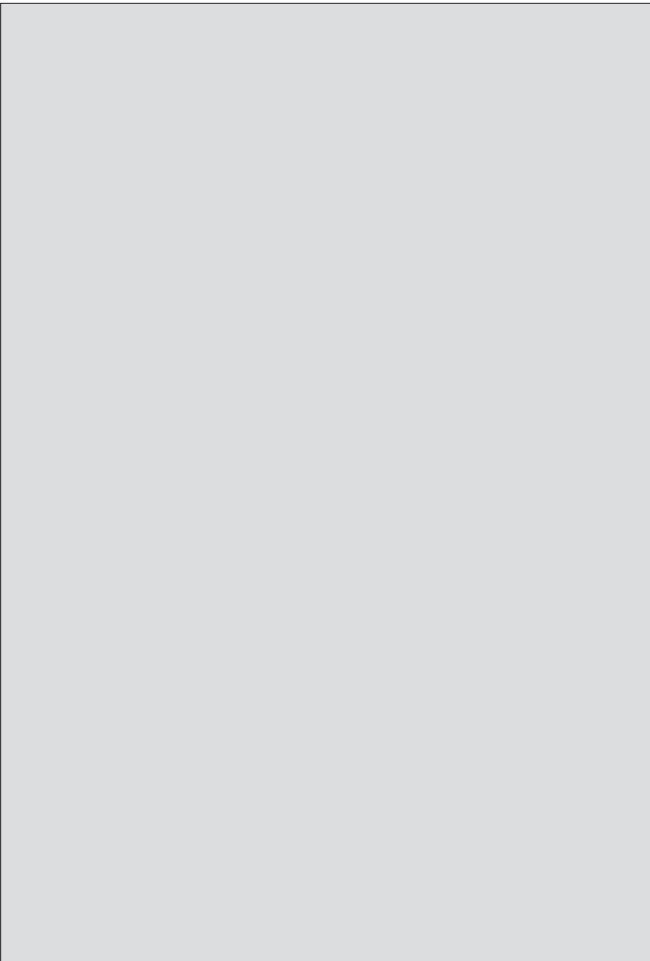
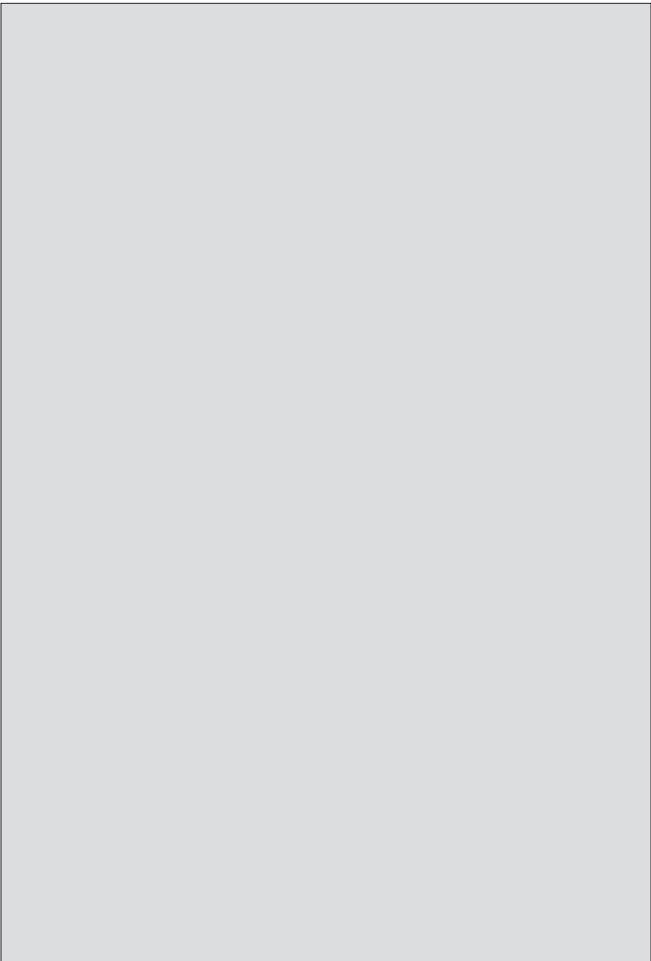
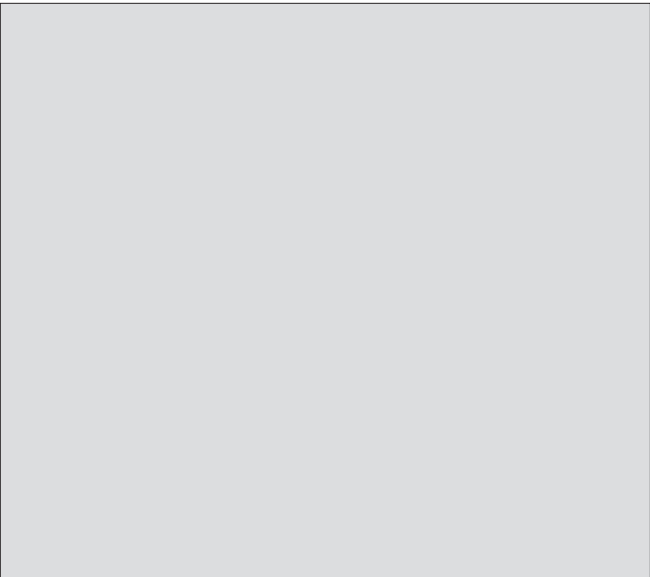
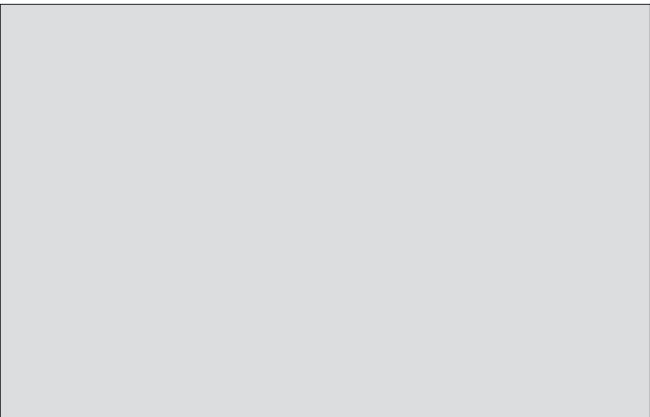
But, the Tyndall Chapel has more to offer than just

one-on-one counseling. They also offer many events and programs.

“We offer a wide variety of programs to include counseling, Bible studies, fellowship, Sunday school,

men’s, women’s, youth and single’s groups.” She said. “The chapel offers something for everyone.”

(325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs contributed to this article)



Gen. Cook discusses mission impact on global operations



Lisa Norman

Gen. Don Cook, Air Education and Training Command commander, gets a briefing about the 325th Air Control Squadron mission, along with Capt. Chris Comer, ACS instructor and 2nd Lts. Joshua Jessep and Jason Timm, ACS students. The general was here for two days during his commander's conference.

2ND LT. SHEILA JOHNSTON
47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

LAUGHLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) — The commander of Air Education and Training Command laid out the state of AETC, how its mission contributes to international operations and how it takes care of its people to aircraft industry members and Air Force ROTC cadets at an Air Force Association dinner Jan. 29 in Fort Worth, Texas.

With many Airmen deployed from across the Air Force, Gen. Donald Cook explained how the command's Airmen and those who have attended AETC training programs are contributing to current operations around the globe.

AETC is working to provide necessary systems and people who will ensure sustained victory against threats at home and abroad, General Cook said. "Our primary mission is to sustain the combat capability of our Air Force by producing mission-ready ex-

peditionary-minded Airmen."

General Cook said AETC will continue to replenish an air and space force that can simultaneously preserve the United States' homeland and defeat enemies overseas.

"In just our flying courses alone, we train approximately 20,000 aircrew (members) every year, each of whom goes on to make significant contributions to our nation's defense..." General Cook said.

This number includes nearly 400 student pilots who graduate from Laughlin Air Force Base each year, as well as instructor pilots trained at Randolph Air Force Base near San Antonio who return to Laughlin to share their skills.

The general also talked about other types of training.

"Each year, we graduate about 480 (military) working dogs that are then deployed across the globe to aid in explosives and drug detection, as well as search, rescue and recovery efforts," he said. "On any given day, we have

approximately 200 dog teams serving in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and 360 teams serving at over 80 airports throughout the country."

In addition to training, General Cook spoke about the modernization of Air Force aircraft and equipment.

"In AETC, we are taking vital steps to implement modernization efforts with programs like the F/A-22 and C-130J... while we also convert our fleet of pilot-training airplanes with the T-6A Texan II and the T-38C," he said.

He went on to explain how the T-38, despite being 40 years old, is its own replacement.

"That's because over the last several years, we've modernized this superb trainer, and it will now last us for another 20 years," General Cook said.

To explain the total-force concept, General Cook talked about the integration of Reserve and Guard components

● SEE **COOK** PAGE 17

Tyndall readies for its ‘Salute to North America’



The Canadian Snowbirds fly in formation during a past air show. The Snowbirds are the only aerial demonstration team to feature nine aircraft during demonstration. The team, along with many other demo teams, will be here for the Gulf Coast Salute May 14-15.

TECH. SGT. DAN NEELY
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tyndall Air Force Base officials have set May 14-15 as the dates for the Gulf Coast Salute 2005 Air Show and Open House.

Under the theme, “Salute to North America,” this year’s event will be highlighted by the Canadian Forces Snowbirds aerial demonstration team. The Snowbirds, a nine-jet team, are celebrating their 35th anniversary this year and to date have flown for more than 116 million spectators across North America.

The two-day event will also feature a wide variety of military and civilian aerial performances. The action includes breathtaking jumps by the U.S. Army “Golden Knights” and Canadian Forces “Skyhawks” parachute teams. An F-15 Eagle from the Air Force’s West Coast Demonstration Team will thunder overhead in a planned single aircraft capabilities demo. A dazzling array of civilian flying performers, including international aero-

batic champion Patty Wagstaff, will do their aerial magic. And military aviation heritage will be showcased with air and ground displays of “warbird” aircraft dating back to World War II.

Not all of the Gulf Coast Salute 2004 activities will be in the air. Numerous ground displays and attractions will be available for young and old alike. There will be plenty of food, games and attractions to make this year’s event a memorable one.

Admission and parking are free. Shuttle bus transportation will be provided from the parking area to the flightline. Security will be emphasized: no pets, weapons, glass bottles or containers will be allowed. Small coolers and backpacks will be permitted, but are subject to search.

To see how this year’s Gulf Coast Salute is shaping up, check out the official Web site at www.schultzairshows.com/tyndall2005.htm or e-mail pacontacts@tyndall.af.mil.

Checkertail Salute

Senior Airman Remegio Quindara Jr.

Airman Quindara receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Airman Quindara, who is the wing’s information manager. He screens, tracks and edits all correspondences for review and signature by the wing and vice wing commander, and has mastered and implemented a wing tracking database. He also prepares daily wing stand-up information and provides audio-visual support to wing staff agencies. He assists with base Quarterly Awards Program, where he sets up boards, organizes ceremonies and orders plaques.

Duty title: 325th Fighter Wing information manager
Time on station: Three and a half years
Time in service: Four years
Hometown: Las Vegas, Nev.
Hobbies: Playing my guitar
Goals: Make staff sergeant this year
Favorite movie: “Troy”
Favorite magazine: “Import Tuner”
Pet Peeves: Bad drivers
Favorite thing about Tyndall: Being close to the water
Proudest moment in the military: Finishing basic military training; receiving an F-15 incentive ride in Key West

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall’s Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Staff Sgt. Amanda Grissom, 325th Services Squadron fitness specialist.

“RESCUE” IS A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE ...

If life has you thinking there’s no way out, it’s time to call in the professionals.

Your base chaplain, the Life Skills counselors, and the people at **1-800-SUICIDE** (784-2433) are ready to help.

ONE SUICIDE IS ONE TOO MANY

Student Eagle driver describes B-Course's first days

MASTER SGT. MARY McHALE
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

He'd heard the rumors before he even arrived – the F-15 Eagle basic course here is the toughest in the Air Force.

Now, Capt. Andrew Pence, a student pilot with the 2nd Fighter Squadron, is finding out first hand.

Captain Pence, a five year veteran and previous B-1 Lancer navigator, started the course Jan. 21 and admits while he finds the course challenging, that only adds to his excitement and enthusiasm to be part of it.

"It is challenging, there's a great deal of studying, but I'm very excited to be here," he said.

The captain, a Seattle, Wash., native and former professional snowboarder, said he joined the Air Force to serve his country. As a navigator, he deployed in support of both Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. It was during a deployment he found out he'd been selected as a student pilot candidate. Upon that selection, he attended undergraduate pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. There, he discovered he wanted to fly fighters and pursuing that goal, proceeded to train on Introductory Fighter Fundamentals at Moody AFB, Ga.

"The F-15 Eagle is totally what I wanted, an air superiority fighter that's the best of the best," he said.

Captain Pence said although students in

UPT fill out a "dream sheet" to select an airframe, a student is eventually matched based on academic performance, flight performance and class ranking.

"They're all very highly motivated individuals," said Maj. James Mueller, 325th Operations Support Squadron instructor pilot. "They have to do really well just to get to this point."

For the captain and his classmates, "this point" for them represents the first few weeks of a six-month course. It's one that will take them on an increasingly complex trek that will range from learning Eagle flight fundamentals to how to eventually employ the Eagle in a multi-adversary fight.

As Major Mueller explained, throughout the course, as soon as a student has a grip on a particular subject, along comes another, more complex topic.

"Students may get comfortable to a point but the instructors will just throw more at them. Once they figure out how to land, we start teaching them how to fight. There's no time to relax."

The major said most of the academic instructors are from Lockheed Martin and represent a wealth of experience.

Currently, the captain and his classmates are learning rudimentary fundamentals of the Eagle, specifically how its different systems and instrumentation work and what procedures to employ when they don't.

During this portion, students learn about



Master Sgt. Mary McHale

Capt. Andrew Pence, 2nd Fighter Squadron Basic Course student, reviews the switches and dials in the squadron's simulated F-15 Eagle cockpit.

specific system operational parameters, and how each works in unison with the rest.

Captain Pence's daily schedule consists of a full day of classroom academics followed by at least four hours of after-class study to review and get ready for the next day's lessons.

"Staying prepared and on top of the information is critical," he said. "If you don't, it's going to be painfully obvious. You have

to be able to memorize information quickly and easily. You want to learn it really well given this could be the aircraft you can potentially be flying the next 15 to 20 years."

And according to Major Mueller, learning the basic fundamentals forms the foundation of a fighter pilot's skills.

"You have to study hard and learn the

● SEE STUDENT PAGE 18

New Eagle pilots, graduates prepare to leave Tyndall's nest

Capt. Sonny Hignite and 1st Lt. Jon. Snyder, prepare their life support gear before stepping to a flight. Both recently graduated from Tyndall's F-15 Eagle B-Course. Lieutenant Snyder, who is going to Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, received honors as his class' distinguished graduate. Capt. Tim Stevens, another graduate in the class, received both the Top Book and Top Gun award. Captain Stevens is going to Kadena Air Base, Japan. Other graduating members include 1st Lt. Chris Lazidis, going to Eglin AFB, Capt. Cody Blake, going to Kadena AB, and Capt. Carey Jones, going to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. Captain Hignite is also going to Elmendorf.



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

Tyndall hosts annual 'Mardi party'

All day event features fun run, parade, more



Photos by Steve Riddle

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander, and his wife, Mo, greet people along the Mardi Gras parade route through base housing. General Egginton was the parade's grand marshal.

STEVE RIDDLE

325th Services Squadron publicist

More than 150 Team Tyndall and family members attended the base's gala Mardi Gras celebration party, which took place Feb. 4 at the Tyndall Officers' Club.

The celebration, hosted by the various squadrons under the 325th Mission Support Group, was actually a combination of three events.

A 5K fun run/walk kicked off at the Tyndall Fitness Center. Twenty six runners including active duty and dependents participated in the event, making the first-ever Mardi Gras run a huge success. Master Sgt. Dan Station, 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit production superintendent, emerged victorious, completing the run in 19:58.

The second event was a parade, which began at the Beacon Beach Marina Club and made its way through base housing. Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander, was the parade's grand marshal, and a group of motorcycle riders

led by Maj. Gen. Marvin Mayes, 1st Air Force commander, led the parade. Also in tow were several of the winning entries from Tyndall's 2004 Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show, horses from the Tyndall Horse Stables, and a dozen floats representing various squadrons and "krewes," or groups of costumed Mardi Gras paraders, from the local area.

Following the parade, the real Mardi Gras party ensued at the Officers' Club. Party goers enjoyed the Cajun-themed music of JB's ZydecoZoo, a local five-piece band, and jambalaya, Creole and Tasso dishes helped to make sure no one left the party hungry.

According to 2nd Lt. Tanoa Mardis, 325th Services Squadron lodging officer in charge, who headed up the event committee, the event was a resounding success and plans are already in the works for next year's Mardi Gras event.



Sean O'Hara, Tyndall Officers' Club food and beverage manager, prepares some chicken gumbo for the Mardi Gras party's hungry crowd.



Airmen 1st Class Bruce Thomashunis (left) and Levi Kemp, both with the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal flight, ride decked-out Segway scooters in the parade. CES was one of several Tyndall units who displayed their Mardi Gras spirit during the event.



Members of the 325th Services Squadron throw beads and candy to people along the parade route of this year's Mardi Gras celebration. The services squadron took third place in the float contest. First and second place went to Krewes of Rats and Macque, respectively. The 325th Communications Squadron float received honorable mention.



Jean Cole, Tyndall Community Center director, explains to Kim Zakar (right) what her future has in store while Linda Wilson looks on. Ms. Cole was a fortune teller for the party and predicted she will also be the fortune teller for next year's event.



Master Sgt. Dan Station, a production superintendent for the 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, receives Mardi Gras beads from 2nd Lts. Tanoa Mardis (left) and Erin Fager, both from the 325th Services Squadron, during the Mardi Gras Fun Run. Sergeant Station finished first in the run with a time of 19:58. The run was one of three events of the celebration here.



Kelly Jackson holds a piece of candy for her daughter, Emily, during the parade. Participants tossed candy and beads to spectators standing along the parade route.

Briefs

Debt Management Class

There will be a debt management class from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday at the Family Support Center. For more information or reservations, call 283-4204.

Effective writing

There will be an awards package-writing seminar noon to 1 p.m. today in the Base Support Center conference room, Bldg. 662, Room. 267. The seminar will help participants write more effective awards packages. All enlisted, officers and civilians are encouraged to attend.

National Prayer Luncheon

The National Prayer Luncheon will be 11 a.m. Feb. 17. The cost is \$5. For more information call the Chapel at 283-2925.

Free trees

Natural Resources is giving away trees on a first-come, first-served basis from now until the last tree is gone at Bldg. 1260. Available are dogwood, cypress, sweet gum, live oak, magnolia and long leaf pine. The trees are now one to three feet tall and will become forest size trees with plenty of shade. They are being given out in recognition of Arbor Day, which was Jan. 21. Call Dann Childs at 283-2641 for more information.

GCCC workshop

Gulf Coast Community College is sponsoring a college information workshop 5 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Education Center, Room 58. The GCCC staff will share information about Federal Financial Aid, Veteran's Benefits, and Florida's official student advising Web site (FACTS). For more information, call 283-4332.

Special Olympics volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help out with this year's Area 2 Special Olympics, being held March 19 at Tommy Oliver Stadium near Bay High School in Panama City. Approximatley 150-200 volunteers are needed to serve on the following committees: sports, food, publicity, volunteer organization, awards, and equipment. Volunteers who may not have the time to allocate to a committee but would love to help in some way with the actual games are also needed. Volunteers can also escort the athletes, present awards, help feed the athletes, set-up and tear-down any equipment and other various jobs. People who have a special talent or hobby that children would enjoy are also needed and entertainers for the Olympic Village. Spouses and civic organizations are also welcome to volunteer. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Maralyn Roedder at 283-2249.

Munitions closure

The Munitions Storage Area will be performing a closed warehouse inventory March 1-4. Only emergency issues will be met during this week. All personal documents must be correct in order to make this run as smooth as possible. Issues or



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

turn-ins must be scheduled before this week. Any questions can be directed to Senior Airman Christopher Penny at 283-4010.

Heart Link Session

The quarterly Heart Link session at Tyndall is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Enlisted Club Classics Lounge. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 283-4204/4205.

SAME offers scholarship and summer camp opportunities

The Society of American Military Engineers has scholarship and summer camp applications and information are available at the SAME Panama City Post Web site: posts.same.org/panamacity/Programs_05.htm.

Wood Manor housing project

The 325th Civil Engineer Squadron will begin replacing existing water mains in the Wood Manor Housing area from now until the summer season. A letter identifying the times of periodic water outages will be placed on residents' doors prior to any known impact. This project will tentatively complete all utility replacement in Wood Manor Housing. For more information, call Huey Moore at 283-4206.

OSC scholarship

Tyndall Officers' Spouses Club college scholarship applications are now available for qualified college-bound high school seniors and military spouses. Applications can be picked up at high school guidance counselors office or at the Tyndall Education Center. Deadline for application return is noon Feb. 25. For more information, call 286-1447.

Tyndall Thrift Shop annual sale

All donated clothing will be 50 percent off the

entire month of February. Selections include various sweaters, coats, skirts and formal wear. Normal shopping hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday - Friday. And 9 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of every month. The store is located in Bldg. 743 across from the post office.

Men's varsity softball team

Mens varsity softball team try outs are tentatively scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Feb. 12, 5 p.m. Feb. 16, and 8:30 a.m. Feb. 19-21. Bad weather make-up dates will be announced if necessary. For more information, contact Maj. Eric North at 283-2054.

AAFES Holiday Hours

The AAFES overhead office, MCSS, Shoal Point, Service Station, Charley's Steakery, Robin Hood, Franks Kiosk, Burger King, Barber Shop, Flight Line Barber Shop, Beauty Shop, Laundry/Cleaners, Alterations, Optical Shop, Nail Salon and Fresh Cup Coffee will all be closed Feb. 21 due to President's Day. The main Base Exchange will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Class Six, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Felix Lake, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Anthony's Pizza, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and GNC, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Garage Sales

2788B Dart Ave.
Garage Sales are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

Chapel Schedule

Weekly Bible Study

The Bible study "Life Without Strife" meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday night at the Spiritual Fitness building by Chapel Two, in room 108.

Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday,

Taxing work

Staff. Sgt. Tameesha Madison, right, 325th Mission Support Group NCO in-charge of the command section, looks over 82nd Training Squadron NCOIC, Staff Sgt. Tiffany Starling's, W-2s while filing her income taxes. The Base Tax Center is open until April 15. Hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday - Thursday. Anyone filing their taxes with the Base Tax Center must bring the social security cards of the family members or dependents they are claiming. The office is located in Bldg. 662, Room 170. Call 283-9192 to schedule an appointment.

Chapel Two
Reconciliation - before Saturday Mass or by appointment
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel Two
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Two
Religious Education, 11 a.m., Bldg. 1476

Protestant Sunday services

Communion service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One
Religious education classes, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Bldg. 1476
General Protestant service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two
Sunday Night Live Service, 6 p.m., Chapel One

Tyndall Chapel Lenten/Easter Schedule:

Ecumenical:
Lenten Devotions/Mass, 11:30 a.m., Chapel Two
Lenten Soup Luncheons will be at noon on Tuesdays from Feb. 15 to March 15 in Chapel Two
Catholic, in Chapel 2:
Ash Wednesday Mass, 11:30 a.m., Feb. 9
Ash Wednesday Service, 5 p.m., Feb. 9
Stations of the Cross, Fridays of Lent, 6 p.m., Feb 18 to March 18
Palm Sunday Mass, 9:15 a.m. March 20
Holy Thursday Mass, 7 p.m., March 24
Good Friday Service, 3 p.m. March 25
Easter Vigil, 10 p.m. March 26
Easter Mass, 9:30 a.m. March 27
Protestant:
Ash Wednesday, 5 p.m., Feb. 9, Chapel One
Palm Sunday Service, 9:30 a.m., March 20, Chapel One
Palm Sunday Service, 11 a.m., March 20, Chapel Two
Maundy Thursday, 5 p.m., March 24, Chapel One
Good Friday, 5 p.m., March 25, Chapel One
Easter Sunrise Service, 6 a.m., March 26, Shoal Point

OSC seeking 'highest bidders' for tonight's art auction

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Tyndall Officers' Spouses Club is gearing up for one of its largest fundraisers, "Fall in Love with Art" art auction, which takes place tonight here.

The evening combines wine tasting, appetizers and a comprehensive collection of elegantly framed art from a variety of classic and contemporary artists – all for a good cause.

According to Leslie Beahm, Tyndall's OSC president, all proceeds from the auction will go to the OSC Charitable Organization, which provides welfare donations and scholarships to Tyndall and the sur-

rounding community.

Last year, more than \$15,000 in scholarships was awarded to Tyndall family members and another \$5,000 towards various on-base groups through the Quality of Life project, Mrs. Beahm said.

"But in order to continue to give so much back to the community, the OSC needs to raise money," she said. "That's why maximum participation in the upcoming fundraiser is so important. There will be many types of artwork, all magnificently framed, including lithographs, engravings, etchings and original oils at a variety of price ranges. But the evening will be unsuccessful without a large audience."

The auction will be run by professional auctioneers who will provide informative and entertaining discussions about the artwork, featuring selections from well-known artists such as Picasso, Rockwell, Chagall and Dali, she said.

"This is an elegant, easy way to raise money that's also a lot of fun," said Jill Serin, the auction house representative. "Some people are afraid of auctions, but a few minutes into the evening, they're sitting excitedly at the edge of their seat. No one bids on artwork they know nothing about. Our staff educates people on the various selections so they can make informed decisions."

Each piece is elegantly

framed and matted, which makes even affordable art look like its worth four times as much, she added.

"Professional frames and mats are expensive, but customers could find an inexpensive piece of framed art at the auction and use the frame for

something else," Ms. Serin said. The preview starts at 6 p.m. tonight at the Officers' Club followed by the auction at 7 p.m. Admission is free and all are welcome. For more information, contact Mrs. Beahm at 248-0195 or beahm@knology.net.

- The auction takes place tonight at the Tyndall Officers' Club
- Preview of available art is at 6 p.m., and the auction begins at 7 p.m.
- The event is free
- For more information, contact Leslie Beahm at 248-0195.

Upcoming Feature Movies at the Tyndall Enlisted Club

6 p.m. Tuesday *Shrek 2*:

The film picks up right where the first movie ended. Shrek and Fiona return from their honeymoon to find a letter from Fiona's parents inviting the newlyweds over for dinner. The only problem is that they have no idea that their daughter is now an ogre. Right after their honeymoon the newly wed couple goes to Princess Fiona's parents for dinner. When a Fairy God Mother discovers Fiona and Shrek are married she reminds the king about a deal they agreed on years ago that Fiona should have married Prince Charming (her son). The king then hires a cat named Puss-in-Boots (a sword fighting cat and ogre slayer) to kill Shrek. (Courtesy of www.imdb.com)

6 p.m. Feb. 24 Lemony Snicket's series of Unfortunate Events

This is the story of the Baudelaires, three young orphans, Violet, Klaus and Sunny, looking for a new home, who are taken in by a series of odd relatives and other people, including Lemony Snicket, who narrates the film, and starting with the cunning and dastardly Count Olaf, who hopes to snatch their inheritance from them. Violet is the oldest of the Baudelaires at 14, and is their brave and fast-thinking leader. The only boy is middle child Klaus, 12, who is intensely intelligent and obsessed with words. The youngest is infant Sunny, who speaks in a language only her siblings can understand, and she has a tendency to bite. (Courtesy of www.imdb.com)



Snack bar items are available for purchase

Tigers to host Hawks in regular season basketball weekend finale

The Tyndall Tigers men's varsity basketball team will host the Hawks of Robins AFB, Ga., in Southeastern Military Athletic Conference, SEMAC, action Saturday and Sunday as they close out their regular season.

The first place Tigers, who have repeated as SEMAC Conference champions for the second consecutive year, will seek to avenge a one point loss they suffered earlier in the season against the Robins team.

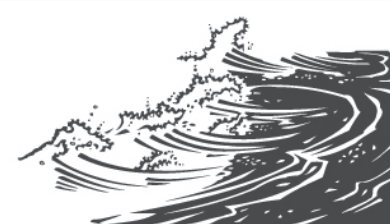
Saturday's game times are 2 p.m. for the Lady Tigers and 4 p.m. for the Tigers. Sunday's games will be 11 a.m. for the Lady Tigers and 1 p.m. for the Tigers.

(Courtesy Tyndall Tigers)





Funshine NEWS



Produced by the 325th Services Squadron

www.325thservices.com

All Ranks

Valentines Dinner



Monday
at the Officers' Club

Members Only
\$36.95 per Couple

- Menu -

Glass of wine
Crab Cake Appetizer
Specialty Salad
Sliced Tenderloin
Lobster Tail
Roasted New Potatoes
Chef Vegetables
Cheese Cake Dessert

Limited Seatings
at 5:30 p.m. or 7:15 p.m.

Reservations Strongly Recommended

For reservations
call 283-4357



All Ranks at the Enlisted Club

Free Movie Night

Special Night - Tuesday
Shrek 2

Rated G
Movie 6 p.m.

Princess Fiona's parents invite her and Shrek to dinner to celebrate her marriage. If only they knew the newlyweds were both ogres

Snack Bar Items Include:

Pizza, hot dogs, chili dogs, nachos, popcorn, candy, & soda
Children age 7 and under eat free.

Youth under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Movies subject to availability.

283-4357

Community Center

☎ 283-2495

Base Level Chess Tournament

Feb. 19, 11 a.m.

Three categories to compete:

- (1) Youth: Six through 18 yrs.
 - (2) Active duty AF Members
 - (3) DOD Civilians, contractors, spouses, eligible family members & retirees.
- Awards for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in each categories.

All participants must sign-up by Feb. 18

Pizza Pub in the CAC Nascar Race Kickoff Party Saturday

7 p.m.

Races will be viewed at the Pizza Pub
Prizes for participation will be given at each event. Must be a current AETC Club member to win.

283-3222 for details

Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

Baseball & Softball Registration Ends Monday

All youth ages five through 14 may register. A birth certificate, shot records, and a current physical exam (not older than one year as of 1 July, 04) due at time of registration. Skills evaluation for new players ages nine through 14 on Feb. 12. Practice begins February and March; games begin March and April.

Age Groups	Cost
Coach Pitch.....5-6	\$25
Machine Pitch.....7-8	\$30
Minor Majors.....9-10	\$35
Little Majors.....11-12	\$40
Dizzy Dean.....13-14	\$50
Girls Softball...10-12, 13-14	\$40

Additional \$10 For non-members of Youth Center

Congratulations 325th Services Squadron

for being selected to compete for the
AF Major General Eugene L. Eubank
Service Award nomination

Sports Page Pizza Pub at the CAC

Karaoke

Are you a singer, musician, comedian or poet?

Come out and join us!

Feb. 23, 5 to 9 p.m.

1/2 off all Appetizers

\$1 Beverage Specials

Call 283-3222

or 283-2495

for more information.



Play Texas

Hold 'Em !

All Ranks at the Enlisted Club

Begins Feb. 26

Play every Saturday for seven weeks.

Grand Championship April 16

\$15 per player per week includes food and \$5,000 in chips

Nightly winner has chance to draw a "Royal Flush" and win a car.

Top three nightly winners awarded prizes

Seating is limited.

Sign up today.

Call 283-4357

Must be active USAF Clubs members.

Get ready to... Skate Like a Pro

Sign up for Freestyle/Flatland Skateboarding
Learn basic to advanced tricks taught by former World Freestyle Amateur Champion and current touring professional John Leathers. Classes are open to ages seven and up and the cost is \$20 per session or \$75 for 4 sessions.

Classes are held at the Youth Center gym and will include special skate trips with Team "TNT" and special guest skaters
Program dates and times are as follows:

Sat. 3-5 p.m.
Feb. 26: Skatepark Trip
Mar. 12: 10-12 p.m.
Mar. 26: 10-12 p.m.

Call 283-4366 for more information.



FREESTYLE

● FROM GOLF PAGE 1

the invitation,” Colonel Hall said. Sergeant Moseley, a two-handicap player, said he was also thankful for being selected to attend and was pleased with his team’s performance.

“Considering the skill level of our team, which included members of other military branches, I think we did very well,” Sergeant Moseley said. “It was unbelievable to play with Elvin Bethea, former Houston Oilers defensive end, and great to play with representatives from all the other services.”

The tournament not only brought together the different services, but also two different lifestyles with remarkable similarities, said the players.

“You have to be extremely disciplined to be a professional athlete and self-disciplined to be successful in the military,” said Colonel Hall. “Each person has his or her own job to do that contributes to the team’s success, in both the military and football.”

Paul Warfield, a hall of fame Cleveland Browns and Miami Dolphins wide receiver and a former Ohio National Guardsman, echoed Colonel Hall’s remarks and said what the military teaches the new recruits today is very similar to what professional football players learn.

“The men on the front lines in war must rely on one another,” he said. “They have that camaraderie, or brotherhood, because they have to depend on the guy next to them to cover their back. Football players rely on one another in a similar capacity for success. If we’re all pulling our weight and not going in different directions, that’s how championships are won.”

Just as football teams adjust their strategies to offset their opponents’ strengths and weaknesses, the U.S. military must do the same for each opponent it faces. And Ed ‘Too Tall’ Jones, the renowned 6-foot-9-inch former Dallas Cowboys defensive end, believes that the war on terrorism has forced the military to adjust its tactics more than ever before.

“I don’t want my daughter and granddaughter to live in fear like people in some countries do,” he said. “It’s unbelievable what the terrorists do, but from all I read, we’re on course to creating peace there. It’s a different type of war than we’re used to, and I hate to hear about the fallen soldiers, but I feel that war was the only way. Hopefully



2nd Lt. William Powell

Lt. Col. Craig Hall, 325th Maintenance Group deputy commander, attempts a 15-yard chip to the green while competing in the annual National Football League Hall of Fame golf tournament in Jacksonville, Saturday. The colonel was paired with hall of fame Washington Redskins wide receiver Charley Taylor and four other servicemen representing each branch of the military.

we can put this all behind us soon.”

With the war and other problems on the minds of the players, they all agreed that the tournament was a good way to temporarily escape life’s obstacles and enjoy the outdoors.

“I certainly felt safe playing with all the military guys,” Mr. Taylor said.

Night flight

Right: Airman Johnathan Carman, 1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief hands 1st Lt. Todd Durham, 1st Fighter Squadron student pilot, his gear before his first night flight. Students make four night flights during their six months of training here. Bottom: Airman Carman signals Lieutenant Durham and his instructor pilot, Lt. Col. Garth Doty, to stop before they taxi to the runway.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell



Training Spotlight

As an air battle manager, what will you be doing when you get to your operational duty station?

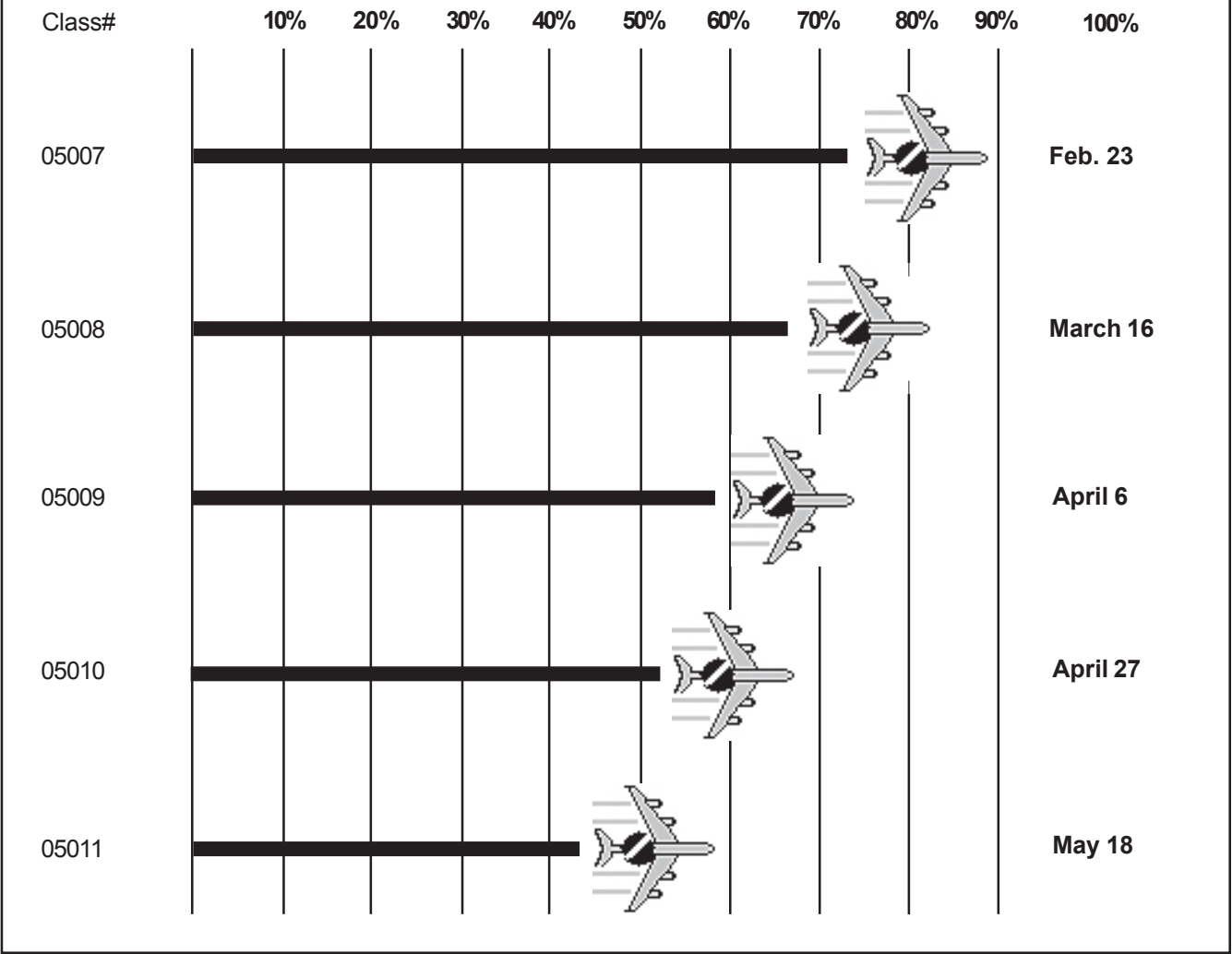
“As an ABM I will be the eyes and ears of the fighters. I will ensure that air power is being implemented in the proper way and that our fighters get home safely.”

2ND LT.
DAMEION BRIGGS
325th Air Control Squadron
air battle manager student

Going to
Kadena Air Base,
Japan



Air Battle Manager student progress chart



● **FROM SAFETY PAGE 4**
with active-duty units and training.

“In AETC, Guard, Reserve and civilian forces are woven into nearly every aspect of our day-to-day operations, and we couldn’t get the job done without them,” he said.

At undergraduate pilot training units, the instructor force is augmented by a large component of full- and part-time reservists. In fact, more than 350 Reserve instructor pilots are assigned to five pilot training bases, the general said.

General Cook also spoke about the importance of taking care of Airmen to support and sustain a well-integrated force.

“We know that we place great demands on our Airmen,” he said. “Our increased operations tempo and deployment cycles take a heavy toll on the Airmen who are deployed and the families and co-workers who are left behind.”

This is why the “Wingman Mindset” is so important. It keeps people focused on taking care of one another, he said.

The “Wingman Mindset” uses the “Four Dimensions of Human Wellness” as the model ensuring Airmen attend to their physical, emotional, social and spiritual anchors.

“We encourage our Airmen to attend to these anchors in order to maintain a healthy balance in their lives...” he said. “But, we are not only concerned about the well-being of our forward deployed air-warriors. We’re also attentive to the needs of the Air Force families that remain behind.”

Traditionally with more deployed members than any other base in the command, he explained how Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio has a “Wingman Program” where families of deployed members are matched up with co-workers to ensure the family has a point of contact to get timely information and help while their loved one is away.

“The ‘Wingman Program’ is just one of many examples that demonstrate our concern for our people,” he said. “We will continue to build upon these initiatives to help us sustain a high-quality force for the foreseeable future.”

Congratulations ALS Class 05-02

Peetra Allison, 81st TSS	Adam Harger, 325th AMXS
Vladimir Aston, 2nd AMU	David Harrell, 325th CES
Jason Bal, Det. 1, 823rd RHS *	Benjamin Honeycutt, 325th AMXS
Jordan Boyd, 325th CES	Ashley Hughes, 325th AMXS (L)
Michael Briggs, 325th MXS	Dorothy King, 325th ACS
Ian Carmichael, 325th CS	Aurelio Lopez, 325th CS
William Carroll, 325th CS	Seth Macdougall, 325th OG
Andrew Caskey, 325th MXS	Cathy Miller, 325th MDSS *
William Cecchini, 325th CS	Christopher Montville, 325th AMXS
Adam Cockrell, 325th AMXS	Kenneth Reynolds, 325th AMXS
Travis Collins, 325th AMXS	Benjamin Rojek, 325th FW
Timothy Crawford, 325th AMXS	Jessica Rowland, Det. 1, 823rd RHS **
Crystal Cronley, 313th TRS	Sean Scavetta, Det. 1, 823rd RHS *
Joseph Dombroski, 95th AMU	Dustin Schaal, 325th CS
Jason Dunn, 325th AMXS	Andrew Smith, 81st TSS (A)
Andrew Fillow, 325th AMXS	Jeremy Vance, 325th AMXS
Daniel Grochowski, 325th AMXS	Christopher Vidovich, 325th MXS
Jonathan Hamaker, 325th AMXS	Matthew Walz, 325th CS
* Distinguished Graduate	(A) Academic award
** John L. Levitow Award	(L) Leadership Award

● **FROM STUDENT PAGE 9**

basics right off the bat,” the major said. “If students get behind early, they’re in trouble.”

Captain Pence realizes that already.

“I’m really looking forward to the flying portion but the tasks we do now each day are very important to getting to that point.”

Daily tasks include learning course reference objectives, what the captain said is the baseline knowledge of the particular subject at hand. Beginning students learn such CROs as basic aircraft systems and the aircraft’s avionics.

“They’re the minimum basics you’re expected to know, but by the time most students get to this point they want to know more than that — they want to excel.”

Coupled with the students’ academic text instruction are sessions in the Eagle simulator, which provides students hands on experience directly correlated to the text lessons.

“Most simulator periods last about an hour to an hour and a half,” said the major. “In fact, a student will have almost as

many simulator rides as aircraft rides over the entire course with 52 in the sim and 57 in the aircraft.”

Aside from academics, students must also focus on physical fitness, which for beginning students means the Fighter Aircraft Conditioning Test. It consists of a rigorous weight lifting regimen for arms, legs and chest, and also includes sit ups and push ups. The test measures how well a student reacts to intensified gravity forces inherent in fighter aircraft maneuvers students like Captain Pence eventually face in the F-15C.

“The test really wears out your muscles to find out if your G tolerance is up to speed,” he said. Given physical fitness is also key to student success, Captain Pence said there is a squadron log to track squadron members fitness activities.

“Overall, I can only say it’s an exciting time,” the captain said. “Everyone is really welcoming, the instructors are great and I really enjoy the camaraderie with my classmates.”

